UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
URUGUAY

IPF:(1992-96) $4 728 000

(URU/92/017) - Support to the Modernization of the Judicial Power

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	25 March 1992	
Expected duration:	36 months	
Proposed executing agency:	Government	
Government implementing agency:	Supreme Court of Justice (SCJ)	
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 300 000	Source of funds:IPF
Government cost sharing:	$ 550 000	
Third-party cost sharing:	$ 360 000	Source of funds:USAID
Total UNDP budget:	$1 210 000	

Project background

The Reform and Modernization of the State has been one of the main concerns in the development strategies of both the past and present Government's Administrations of Uruguay. As such, it has been identified as one of the Uruguayan priority areas of concentration for UNDP's co-operation during the Fifth Cycle.

The subregional integration process in the MERCOSUR offers the possibility of revising the long-term economic stagnation of the country and constitutes the major challenge for the near future. In this connection, it is recognized that important transformations need to be undertaken in different aspects of the national life. In the Justice Sector, the country requires expedite judicial procedures which would facilitate possible investment opportunities, as well as an efficient functioning of the judiciary and tribunals to enable rapid and low-cost solution to legal problems.

During the past two years, the judiciary has been introducing several innovative features which are proving to be very successful, such as, among others the initiation of oral judgement in several judicatures; the creation of 150 new posts of judges and attorneys to accelerate procedures, and the creation of the "Centro de Estudios Judicales" (CEJU), the latter assisted by the project (URU/90/009) Strengthening of the Judicial System in Uruguay.

The present project, which contemplates different aspects of modernization within the

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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Judicial System, has been formulated under the Preparatory Assistance project "Support to the Informatization of the Judicial System" for which UNDP assistance was requested by the Government.

Description of project

The long-term objective of the project is to improve socio-economic conditions through the modernization of the Judicial System. The processes of economic opening and integration in the context of MERCOSUR call for efficient judicial procedures more than ever before.

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) reduce the administrative workload of the Supreme Court of Justice in order to enable the ministers to devote more time to their technical tasks; (b) strengthen the Planning and Budget Office of the Judicial Power; (c) implement a System of Judicial Statistics; (d) introduce informatic systems in the Judiciary, Tribunals, Supreme Court of Justice and the Forensic Institute; and (e) analyze and study the possibility of introducing non-formal procedures or alternative ways of solving minor conflicts.

Inputs

UNDP will provide the international project manager (36 man-months); three short-term international consultants in tribunal administration, international systems of justice administration, and alternative ways of solving conflicts, as well as an evaluation mission; national consultants for judicial statistics, techniques on resolution of conflicts, public organization and administration, a research assistant, two O&M analysts in jurisprudence, a programme or system analyst in informatics development, juridic databases; a subcontract with a national or international firm to develop the National System of Statistics of the Judicial Power; study tours to get acquainted with Justice Administration Institutions in the USA and other Latin American countries, in-service training in the use of informatics techniques and training courses; equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	705 800
Subcontract	70 000
Training	37 400
Equipment	373 800
Miscellaneous	23 000
Total	1 210 000

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